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Adopted
July 11, 2012

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

2013 Position Paper Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center

1. **Objective:** To set aside land currently owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia at the Northern Virginia Training Center in Fairfax County for the future construction of the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center.
2. **Background:**
 - The *Long-Term Care Feasibility Study: Quality Care They Earned* was prepared for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in 2007 by the Schroeder Center for Healthcare at the College of William & Mary.
 - Among the six primary recommendations made in the study was the need for a new veterans care center in the Northern Virginia Planning District (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City). The report recommended that new care centers “...be located near veteran population centers without a Veterans Care Center...”
 - A specific site for the Northern Virginia center has not yet been designated.
 - As of the 2000 census there were nearly 42,000 veterans over 65 in the Northern Virginia Planning District, second only to Hampton Roads with nearly 48,000.
 - The Northern Virginia Training Center is located in Fairfax County near the George Mason University Campus. The Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Justice in January 2012 reached a settlement agreement, under which Virginia will close the center by 2015.
3. **Discussion:**
 - This property is already owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - Land set aside would be used to construct the new veterans care center with up to 240 beds. Actual construction would occur after the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that federal funds will be allocated, and Virginia approves and allocates the state share of the construction costs.
 - The cost of property in the Northern Virginia area is very high. By utilizing property already owned by Commonwealth the cost of the project should be significantly reduced.
4. **Recommendation:** That the Governor take the necessary administrative or legislative actions to formally set aside land currently owned by the Commonwealth at the Northern Virginia Training Center in Fairfax County for the future construction of the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center.